

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07

INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 DRC-01

DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SSO-00 INRE-00 /157 W

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O R 240939Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7104

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CO 7 PSYOPS GP

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CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC  
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN  
ZENBSAMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USDAO/SAIGON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 9749

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS  
SUBJ: EMBASSY SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY JULY 18-24, 1974

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;  
DOD FOR USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

THE WEEK IN SUMMARY:

THE CEASEFIRE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REMAINS ACTIVE DESPITE RECESS

MONTAGNARD DISSIDENT CLAIMS TO FULRO LEADERSHIP

INVESTIGATION COMPLETED IN CASES OF ILLEGAL HONG KONG  
IMMIGRANTS; SOME RELEASED

GVN WIDELY PUBLICIZES SUICIDE OF BUU PHUNG

GVN CALLS FOR NORTH-SOUTH TALKS

FONMIN RETURNS

I. INTERNAL

A. THE CEASEFIRE

IN MR-1 THE NUMBER OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REACHED A 1974  
HIGH THIS WEEK, AS DID THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES. A ROCKET  
ATTACK ON DANANG AIRBASE KILLED 16 AND DESTROYED 10 BUILDINGS  
AND AN ICCS HELICOPTER. THE NUMBER AND INTENSITY OF  
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INCIDENTS WAS ALSO UP IN MR-2, AND WAS REFLECTED IN  
HIGHER CASUALTIES. FIGHTING WAS ESPECIALLY HEAVY IN  
PLEIKU AND KONTUM PROVINCES, WHERE NEARLY EVERY ARVN IN-  
FANTRY AND ARTILLERY UNIT RECEIVED INDIRECT FIRE. NOTE-  
WORTHY ALSO WAS THE HIGH INCIDENCE ATTACKS AGAINST MAJOR  
INSTALLATIONS ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST. THESE INCLUDED  
THREE SEPARATE ATTACKS ON CAM RANH PENINSULA AND TWO ROCKET  
ATTACKS ON NHA TRANG. IN MR-E THERE WAS A LULL FOLLOWING

THE BEN CAT HIGHPOINT, AND THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DROPPED SLIGHTLY. THERE WAS AN ABSENCE OF LARGE UNIT FIGHTING, WITH MOST INCIDENTS IN BEN CAT DISTRICT. ASSASSINATIONS APPEARED ON THE RISE, WITH SIX KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED IN ASSASSINATION ACTIONS. IN MR-4, THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS UP. ACTION WAS MODERATE IN THE NORTHERN DELTA AND GENERALLY LIGHT IN THE CENTRAL DELTA. THE MOST INTENSE FIGHTING WAS IN KIEN GIANG, WHERE SIX VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN OVER-RUN SINCE JULY 14 AND ONLY ONE OF THEM RETAKEN.

THE ICCS CONTINUED TO DEVOTE A LARGE PART OF ITS DECISION-MAKING ENERGIES TO ITS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY THE GROWING DEBTS OWED TO THE DELS. THE DRV/PRG BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED. THE GROUP OF YOUNG AMERICANS TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD TO PUBLICIZE THE MIA ISSUE CALLED ON THE US, GVN AND PRG DELS TO THE FPJMT. THE DRV DEL REFUSED TO SEE THE GROUP.

HANOI'S PROPAGANDA MACHINERY CONTINUED ITS SCURRILOUS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE CONGRESSIONAL OPINION AGAINST CONTINUED US SUPPORT FMM THE RVN. THE COMMUNISTS EXULTED IN THEIR RECENT ATTACKS BY FIRE ON DANANG AND NHA TRANG AND AT THE SAME TIME DENOUNCED "SLANDEROUS TRICKS" GVN CONDEMNATIONS OF THESE ATTACKS.

#### B. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REMAINS ACTIVE DESPITE RECESS

THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DU AXIOAZ PAST WEEK, EVEN THOUGHT THE ASSEMBLY IS OFFICIALLY IN A RECESS PERIOD.

THE LOWER HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY SESSION JULY 26 TO QUESTION PRIMIN  
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TRAN THIEN KHIEM UNDER THE RARELY INVOIKED CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE FOR INTERPELLATION. THIS IS ON THE PETITION OF 58 DEPUTIES, FIVE MORE THAN THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO DEMAND AN INTERPELLATION. MOST OF THESE DEPUTIES ARE OPPOSITION MEMBERS OR INDEPENDENTS, BUT SOME PRO-ADMINISTRATION DEPUTIES JOINED THE REQUEST AS WELL. THE PRO-ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE APPEARS EAGER FOR THE CHANCE TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THIS DIALOGUE WITH THE EXECUTIVE. THE SUBJECT OF THE SESSION WILL BE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE AND THE GENERAL NATIONAL SITUATION. KHIEM WILL APPEAR IN PERSON WITH A DELEGATION OF MINISTERS.

IN THE UPPER HOUSE, A MOVE IS UNDERWAY TO CREATE TWO PRO-ADMINISTRATION BLOCS. NO BLOCS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN THAT HOUSE SINCE THE 1973 SENATORIAL ELECTION, ALTHOUGH THE

PRO-ADMINISTRATION FORCES COULD EASILY HAVE DONE SO AT ANY TIME. ONE OF THE BLOCS WILL HAVE 23 MEMBERS AND WILL BE CALLED THE "DEMOCRACY BLOC"; ITS LEADER WILL BE SENATOR TRAN MINH TUNG, THE SECY GEN OF THE DEMOCRACY PARTY. THE OTHER BLOC WILL CONTAIN 18 MEMBERS (THREE MORE THAN THE MINIMUM) AND WILL HAVE THE NAME "UNITY BLOC"; IT WILL BE LED BY SENATOR HUYNH VAN CAO, A PRO-ADMINISTRATION SENATOR WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAJOR NON-ADMINISTRATION POLITICAL PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE.

OPPOSITION FORCES IN THE UPPER HOUSE, WHICH ARE SPLINTERED, SHOW NO SIGN OF SEEKING TO FORM A COMPETING BLOC, AND PROBABLY THEY WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL IF THEY TRIED. THE TWO NEW PRO-ADMINISTRATION BLOCS INCLUDE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF THE SENATORS.

#### C. MONTAGNARD DISSIDENT CLAIMS TO FULRO LEADERSHIP

AS REPORTED LAST WEEK (SAIGON 9452), A FORMER DARLAC LABOR SERVICE OFFICIAL NAMED KPA KOI IS LEADING A DISSIDENT BAND OF PERHAPS 200 MONTAGNARDS IN THE JUNGLES OF DARLAC PROVINCE. KPA KOI CLAIMS TO BE THE REP OF Y-BHAM ENOUL, TITULAR LEADER OF THE FULRO (UNITED FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES) MOVEMENT IN VIETNAM. KPA KOI HAS AFFIRMED THAT HE HAS DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT HIS CLAIM.

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ON JULY 13, THE DARLAC PROVINCIAL REP OF CON GEN II WAS SHOWN A DOCUMENT WHICH, THE PROV REP BELIEVES, DOES SUPPORT KPA KOI'S CLAIM. THE DOCUMENT WAS A PHOTOCOPY IN RHAD, WITH A FRENCH TRANSLATION AND APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED BY Y-BHAM ENOUL. PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING THE DOCUMENT ADD TO ITS VERSIMILITUDE. ETHNIC MINORITIES MINISTER NAY LUETT HAS CONFIRMED TO MISSION OFFICERS THAT KPA KOI, IN LUETT'S OPINION, DOES IN FACT HAVE AUTHORITY IN WRITING FROM Y-BHAM ENOUL TO HEAD THE FULRO MOVEMENT IN VIETNAM.

COMMENT: EVEN THOUGH KPA KOI DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVELY MOBILIZING GENERAL MONTAGNARD SENTIMENT AND SUPPORT, THERE ARE REAL GRIEVANCES AMONG THE MONTAGNARDS THAT MIGHT WELL BE EXPLOITED BY A MORE CAPABLE DISSIDENT LEADER. THESE GRIEVANCES ARE CENTERED ON THE ISSUE OF LAND RIGHTS. THE MONTAGNARDS PERCEIVE VIETNAMESE ENCROACHMENT ON MONTAGNARD LAND AS A MAJOR PROBLEM.

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USIA WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

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CINCPACFLT  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 9749

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;  
DOD FOR USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

THIS CERTIFICATION OF KPA KOI A Y-BHAM ENOUL'S  
REP, IF, INDEED, THE DOCUMENT IS AUTHENTIC, ADDS STATURE TO  
KPA KOI AMONG THE MONTAGNARDS. AS REPORTED LAST WEEK, Y-BHAM  
ENOUL IS RESPECTED BY MANY MONTAGNARDS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF  
FULRO IN THE 1960'S. HE IS SEEN BY THEM AS AN ACTIVE CHAMPION  
OF MONTAGNARD RIGHTS.

D. INVESTIGATION COMPLETED IN CASES OF ILLEGAL HONG KONG  
IMMIGRANTS; SOME RELEASED

THE GOVT HAS BROUGHT BACK FROM THE CON SON ISLAND PRISON ALL  
THE ILLEGAL IMIGRANTS WHO WERE RECENTLY RETURNED TO SOUTH  
VIETNAM FROM HONG KONG (SEE SAIGON 8835,  
ITEM I. C AND SAIGON 9452, ITEM I.G). THIS WAS REPORTEDLY  
AT THE ORDER OF THE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE AS FINAL INVESTIGATION  
OF THEIR CASES BEGAN. THE SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION TOOK ONLY  
A FEW DAYS AND RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF 29 OF THE PRISONERS.  
THE OTHERS WILL BE TRIED AT DATES TO BE FIXED LATER.

E. GVN WIDELY PUBLICIZES SUICIDE OF BUU PHUNG

ON JULY 11, 1974, A VIETNAMESE VETLAN NAMED BUU PHUNG  
BURNED HIMSELF TO DEATH IN FRONT OF THE ICCS HQ BUILDING IN SAIGON  
(REPORTED IN SAIGON 9274, JULY 13, 1974).  
BEFORE HIS SELF-IMMOLATION, BUU PHUNG LEFT FOUR LETTERS, A  
SOUTH VIETNAMESE FLAG, AND A BUDDHIST FLAG AT A POLICE  
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STATION NEAR THE ICCS HQ. THE PRINCIPAL THRUST OF PHUNG'S  
LETTERS WAS A PROTEST AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION.  
THE LETTERS ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRES. THIEU.

THE VIETNAMESE MIN OF INFORMATION HAS GIVEN WIDE PLAY TO THE

STORY OF BUU PHUNG'S DEATH. "VETERAN BURNS HIMSELF TO DEATH IN PROTEST AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS", HEADLINED THE STORY OF BUU PHUNG'S SUICIDE IN THE JULY 12, 1974 MORNING EDITION OF VIETNAM PRESS, THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY. MANY ARTICLES HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN THE VIETNAM PRESS AND IN THE SAIGON DAILIES PROTRAYING PHUNG'S DEATH AS A MARTYRDOM IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CAUSE. VENERABLE THICH TAM CHAU PRAISED PHUNG, SAYING THAT PHUNG HAD ONCE BEEN A BUDDHIST MONK. VIETNAM PRESS REPORTED THAT CHAU SIAD THAT PHUNG HAD WON THE ESTEEM OF HIS FELLOWS FOR HIS "MODERATE BUT HIGH-SPIRITED CHARACTER." CHAU REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT PHUNG WAS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE MONKS IN THE 1963 "STRUGGLE MOVEMENT".

PHUNG'S REMAINS WERE LAID IN STATE AT THE VINH NGHIEM PAGODA AND HE WAS BURIED AT THE MILITARY CEMETERY IN BIEN HOA. A CONVOY OF 75 ARVN TRUCKS PARTICIPATED IN THE FUNERAL PROCESSION.

CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING PHUNG HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ALL FOUR MILITARY REGIONS. THE COMMANDER OF THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 43RD REG OF THE 18TH INFANTRY DIV, MAJOR NGUYEN HUU CHE, WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT BUU PHUNG HAD CHOSEN A "NOBLE DEATH". (PHUNG HAD SERVED IN THE 3RD CO OF THE 2ND BATTALION.)

GVN LEGISLATORS ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR REGRET AT HIS DEATH. SENATOR HUYNH VAN CAO, OF THE SENATE DEFENSE COMMITTEE, WAS QUOTED BY PRESS REPORTS AS AFFIRMING THAT PHUNG WAS A HERO WHOSE SELF-IMMOLATION HAD VOICED TO SOME EXTENT THE ASPIRATION FOR PEACE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

A TAPERECORDING PURPORTEDLY OF PHUNG'S LAST WORDS BEFORE HIS SELF-IMMOLATION WAS BROADCASTED OVER THE VIETNAMESE RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORKS ON "NATIONAL SHAME DAY" (JULY 20). (NATIONAL SHAME DAY COMMEMORATES THE PARTITION OF VIETNAM INTO TWO HALVES BY THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORDS.) ACCORDING TO VIETNAM PRESS, BUU CONFIDENTIAL

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PHUNG SENT THE TAPE TO A VIETNAMESE DAILY IN SAIGON AND ASKED THE LATTER TO HAND IT OVER TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND OPEN ARMS, HOANG DUC NHA.

## II. EXTERNAL

### A. GVN CALLS FOR NORTH-SOUTH TALKS.

ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS GVN JULY 20 ISSUED A PROCLAMATION ASSAILING COMMUNIST VIOLATION OF THOSE ACCORDS AND OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. STATEMENT, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO EARLIER GVN APPEALS, CALLED ON NVN TO STOP ITS AGGRESSION,

WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS TO THE NORTH, AND START IMMEDIATE TALKS WITH THE SOUTH CONCERNING REUNIFICATION, EXCHANGE OF PERSONAL LETTERS, VISITS, AND TRADE AND ECONOMIC EXCHANGES. (AN AFP DISPATCH FROM HANOI QUOTES A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS STATING JULY 22 THAT "THIEU ADMINISTRATION" HAS NO RIGHT TO REPRESENT SOUTH VIETNAM AND THAT APPEAL WAS INTENDED TO "HIDE THE SAID TRUTH THAT THE ADMINISTRATION RUN BY NGUYEN VAN THIEU IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL IN THE HANDS OF AMERICANS TO SABOTAGE THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND TO CONTINUE THE WAR TO SOUTH VIETNAM.")

#### B. FONMIN RETURNS

FONMIN VUONG VAN BAC RETURNED JULY 21 FROM A FIVE-WEEK JOURNEY DURING WHICH HE HEADED THE GVN DEL TO THE LOC SONF IN CARACAS JUNE 20-30 DURING THE CONFERENCE'S OPENING PHASE. IN ADDITION TO STOPOVERS IN LONDON, BAC MADE OFFICIAL VISITS TO CHILE, URUGUAY, AND ARGENTINA DURING WHICH HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE.

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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

### III. ECONOMIC

#### A. DGT TAX COLLECTIONS UP IN JUNE

REVERSING A TWO-MONTH DOWNWARD TREND, JUNE COLLECTIONS BY THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TAXATION (DGT) ROSE TO VN\$20.3 BILLION, CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPARED TO VN\$13.2 BILLION IN MAY. THE JUNE PERFORMANCE REPRESENTED A 62 PERCENT INCREASE OVER A YEAR AGO. MOST OF THE VN\$20.3 BILLION CAME FROM THE SPECIAL CONSUMPTION TAX (VN\$9.6 MILLION) AND THE VALUE ADDED TAX (VN\$5.6 BILLION). DGT RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR WERE VN\$132.2 BILLION COMPARED TO VN\$70.3 BILLION COLLECTED DURING THE SAME 1973 PERIOD, AN INCREASE OF 88 PERCENT. ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, THE INCREASE WAS 13 PERCENT.

#### B. EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENT

EFFECTIVE JULY 19, THE GOVT RAISED THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE TO VN\$640/\$1. THE CIP REBATE REMAINED VN\$60/\$1. IT WAS THE SECOND ADJUSTMENT IN TWO WEEKS. ON JULY 5, THE RATE WENT FROM VN\$620 TO VN\$630.

#### C. RICE PRICES WEAKEN

AFTER RISING STEADILY FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS, RICE PRICES EDGED DOWNWARD DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 22. THE NATIONAL FOOD



AGENCY (NFA) BEGAN SELLING OFFICIALLY-PRICED RICE AT RETAIL OUTLETS IN SAIGON, CAUSING FREE MARKET PRICES TO DECLINE ONE PERCENT. OVERALL, USAID'S CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ROSE 0.4 PERCENT DURING THE WEEK. PORK BELLIES, SUGAR AND SOFT DRINKS WERE THE PRINCIPAL GAINERS, PARTLY OFFSET BY DECLINES IN RICE AND SEAFOOD ITEMS.

D. GOLD AND BLACK MARKET CURRENCY RATES

BLACK MARKET DOLLAR RATES REMAINED UNCHANGED FOLLOWING THE DJ OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENT LAST WEEK. US\$100 GREEN BROUGHT VN\$662/\$1. THE PIASTER COST OF GOLD TAEI INCREASED SLIGHTLY, BUT THE DEVALUATION RESULTED IN A SLIGHTLY LOWER DOLLAR PRICE THAN LAST WEEK -- \$138.93 PER TROY OUNCE EQUIVALENT. LEHAMNN

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## Message Attributes

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